



MULLIN'S NOTES

The Official Newsletter of the 19th Assembly District



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007

Six Mullin Bills Signed by the Governor

BY DARCI SEARS
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Assembly Member Gene Mullin reports that the Governor has signed six of his bills into law. October 14th was the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the legislature. Assembly Member Mullin said that he was especially pleased that two of these bills were initiated by his constituents.

Following are the six bills that were signed into law this week:

- **AB 1368** sponsored by the Hillsborough City School District, AB 1368 will save school districts administrative costs in the process of securing funds for the construction and modernization of school facilities.

"This new law allows K-12 and community college districts to issue the original BAN for up to five years and eliminates the annual renewal requirement. This will ensure that bond funds are used for school facilities and not administrative fees. K-12 and community college districts throughout the state will save millions of dollars. The Hillsborough City School District alone has estimated savings of almost \$2 million," said Assemblymember Mullin.

- **AB 622** initiated by Each One Reach One an organization in South San Francisco, will allow incarcerated students, with little or no chance to achieve the high school diploma, to choose to work toward passage of the General Educational Development (GED) test and receipt of the California high school equivalency certificate as part of their regular course of study, rather than doing so in addition to following a course of study focused on the degree. "Passage of the GED will open future employment opportunities that would not be available



Assemblymember Mullin at his desk.

Photo by Russell Collins Stiger

to a young person that failed to receive a high school diploma, and will reduce the chances of these individuals returning to the juvenile or adult justice system," said Mullin.

- **AB 597** requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to select an elementary or secondary career technical education (CTE) program to develop comprehensive Web site pages with information about opportunities and programs available in the state on CTE in elementary and secondary schools.

This bill is the product of the Assembly Education Committee's Career Technical Education Working Group. The group met for six weeks and heard from a variety of business, industry, labor and education stakeholders about the state of career technical education in K-12 schools. At the end of the six weeks, the Working Group members agreed to focus on two bills, both of which are authored by the Assembly Committee on Education, chaired by Assembly Member Gene Mullin.

- **AB 1061** repeals specified items from the list of information that schools are required to include on the School Accountability

Report Card (SARC). This bill simplifies the SARC, makes it more understandable, and improves its readability in order to make the information more accessible to parents. AB 1061 was sponsored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

- **AB 1080** provides some clarity to the Governor's Targeted State Preschool program called the Prekindergarten and Family Literacy Programs (PKFLP). Clarification is needed to resolve some of the issues that have come to light since the enactment of the program in January 2007.

- **AB 1317** secures the authority of the CalPERS and CalSTRS Boards to set the compensation and the terms and conditions of employment, including performance standards and conflict of interest provisions to the position of general counsel. This new amendment to current law ensures that CalPERS and CalSTRS will have a competitive and responsive compensation structure that enables the retirement systems to attract and retain the most qualified general counsel staff.

California Left Behind in Protecting Children

It is with tremendous disappointment that I respond to Governor Schwarzenegger's veto of my measure, AB 881, to extend booster seat requirements to 6 and 7 year-olds in California. The veto message states that the responsibility falls to the parent to model good behavior and if they buckle up, their children will buckle up. The argument here is not that children are not buckling up, but that parents are unaware that the use of seat belts alone exposes children to the leading cause of death for their age group and one of the leading causes of injuries requiring hospitalization.

Sadly, this scenario was all too real for a Monterey family of six who was involved in a car crash just last month in Sacramento County. A mother and 14 year-old son who were unbelted died, but the father and three younger children – seven year-old twins and a nine year-old were all belted. The nine year-old walked away from the crash, the father suffered minor injuries, but the two seven year-olds were critically injured and sent to UC Davis' trauma center, further demonstrating that for young children, a seatbelt alone is not sufficient protection.

The veto message stressed the importance of education and enforcement of existing laws, not the need for new ones. Recent studies showed education alone is not as effective as an education campaign combined with legislation - which resulted in an increase of booster seat compliance of 40%. California would have been eligible for \$600,000 to \$3.74 million in federal transportation dollars public education and free and low-cost booster seats to families if this bill had passed. Sadly, California is behind 25 other states in our child passenger safety laws and fall well short

of federal recommendations.

It is the duty of the Legislature to share in the responsibility for protecting children by passing laws which reflect commonly acknowledged safety standards. The requirements of this proposal mirror the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

I, and our many sponsors, remain committed to the education of parents on the extended use of booster seats as a means to protect children.

Schools Celebrate Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign that focuses on reducing the demand for alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. As a former government teacher of thirty-two years, I am committed to the health and well-being of all students and wanted to reemphasize the perils of drug use. The California State Legislature proclaimed October 23-31, 2007 as Red Ribbon Week and encouraged all Californians to help build drug-free communities.

Through the collaboration of several school districts, my office distributed over 40,000 Red Ribbon Week Bookmarks to 70 schools throughout the 19th Assembly District. Schools also



Over 40,000 Red Ribbon Week Bookmarks such as this one were distributed to 70 schools throughout the 19th Assembly District.

organized Red Ribbon Week activities to talk to their students about making healthy choices. Students also wore red ribbons as a symbol of unity against the illegal use of drugs.

I applaud all the school administrators, principals, and teachers who participated in a successful Red Ribbon Week. I encourage all parents to talk to their children about the dangers of drug use.



20th Annual Seniors On The Move Conference Attracts 600 Seniors



Assemblymember Gene Mullin hosts the 20th Annual Seniors on the Move Conference .

Photo by Darci Sears

I was honored to host the 20th Annual Seniors on the Move conference with San Mateo County Supervisor Adrienne Tissier. This annual event was begun by former State Senator Jackie Speier 20 years ago as an educational and entertaining program for seniors. We were privileged to have former San Mateo County Supervisor Mike Nevin as the Master of Ceremonies and the 600 at-

tendees were entertained with a lunchtime performance by the world-renowned San Francisco Banjo Band.

Speakers in previous conferences were Rita Moreno, Carol Channing, and Jack Lalane. For this year's conference we were honored to have State Controller John Chiang, Former State Senator Jackie Speier, KTVU/Fox 2 Consumer Editor Tom Vacar, KRON TV Film Critic Jan

Wahl, and former TV anchor Fred LaCosse. Each speaker highlighted issues and concerns affecting the senior community.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Seniors on the Move Committee, Supervisor Adrienne Tissier's staff, and my staff for putting together the best conference to date. I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's conference.

OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN

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You're Invited to a Town Hall Meeting on Education . . .

Assemblymember Gene Mullin,
Chair of the Assembly Education Committee,
will discuss recent developments in
Education in California.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

10:00 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.	1:00 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.
EL CAMINO HIGH SCHOOL "LITTLE THEATRE" 1320 MISSION ROAD SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, 94080	BOREL MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY 429 BARNESON AVENUE SAN MATEO, 94402



ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN *Committees*

Standing Committees: Education (Chair) • Budget • Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education Finance • Budget Subcommittee #4 – State Administration • Housing and Community Development • Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security • Water Parks and Wildlife

Select Committee: Select Committee on Biotechnology (Chair)



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